

## FRENCH INDOCHINA

the investors. This was not in itself a reflection on the colony but at the greediness and gullibility of its would-be promoters. Small predominated among these investors, and they did not realize that the great financiers treated Indo-China as their own fief. It was, on the whole, a return to the old conception of the colony as existing for the benefit of the Metropole, a place where profits could and should be made with the minimum of effort. At present Metropolitan confidence *has* been sadly shaken, but the same spirit of speculation would be reborn at the slightest provocation, because it is inherent in French psychology. These who have persisted in the idea of the colony as a long-term investment and not a field for speculation, have in measure retained their faith and their capital. In this double towards the colony's wealth it is the government which has the cautious investors' attitude, and the public which has between unreflecting enthusiasm and equally irrational despair.

If assimilation is old-fashioned as an administrative theory it has survived in a distorted form in the average Frenchman's attitude towards the colonies. The French public is extraordinarily uninformed about its colonies, chiefly because it is not interested. This is due to the lack of information facilities. Foreign observers

have been struck by the excellence and quantity of French colonial periodicals. The Ministry of Public Instruction has created a chair of Indo-Chinese literature and philology at the *College de France* and at the

*in*

*Orientalist*. A committee on Indo-Chinese archaeology and the School are under the government's aegis. There is

**too,** the & *FhidocUne* in Paris and its  
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 founded in Paris;  
 in 1910 the Association of the French of Asia, which  
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 prize for colonial literature and subsidizes the  
 translation of  
 French ami *mgti*. In 1925 the colonial  
 government  
 a toweling art fellowship\* Lecturers, both  
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*JM* confined to Indo-Chinese  
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